CARRIER-PIGEONS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. For The Tribune.

The night is gathering o'er the deep;
The north-west wind, with fearful roar,
Comes, goading off the glooming shore
the waves that may not rest or elecp. They crouch, they curl in angry foam

There sounds a warning through the waste To every living thing, to haste, ad hide itself within its home.

Hushed now all voice of living things;—
But hark! for through the lurid light,
With measured stroke, and steady flight,
Comes swiftly on the rush of wings. They come upon their tireless quest, In company, a winged brood, A single faith doth stir the blood, And warm the life in every breast.

They meet the shivering north-west gale,
Their even course it cannot stay:
They meet the storm, it cannot sway
A feather, as right on they sail. They struggle on where lies the land,

The way is wild—they struggle on: They know their work may not be done, Until they touch their master's hand. They know they have a precious freight, For, folded neath each throbbing heart, Is borne the tidings of the mart, Of public health, or news of State,

Or the last words which coldly trace The lingering torture of the war, And tell what plots engage the Czar, What woes our English brethren face; Or hint, upon what craft intent, Still wavers cunning Austria's court; What neighbor-jealousies have wrought Fresh ills throughout the continent. And oh! if Peace, if Peace be near! And oh! if when the strife is through, May Europe's slaves their hope renew, Or breathe one breath of freer air.

To the great city, when it wakes, Thus safe and swift its journey takes With that strange brood, which, strong of wing-And firm in faith, devotedly, Stretch ever toward their master's hand, Above the spaces of the land, And o'er the heavings of the sea.

This record which the morn shall bring

NOTES OF WESTERN TRAVEL.

RAILROAD EXPERIENCES. CHICAGO, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1855.

There is another block-up of the wheels of locomo tion. Travel westward and southward from this point has been almost wholly suspended since Thursday night. I believe the Rock I land Road is now open, and there is a prospect that the Chicago and Galena by to-night; but nothing has yet been heard from the trains on the Chicago and Mississippi Road, and I fear there has been a repetition of the scenes of cold and famine which occurred a month ago. Nothing like the present winter has been known since 1833, which I remember, as a boy, from having seen the windows of the lower story o my father's house (in Southern Pennsylvania) entirely darkened by the snow drifts. The severity of the season, however, seems to have

en confined to the region north of the Ohio River. The course of my Western travels, for the last two months, has been in a zigzag line between that river and the Lakes, and I have several times, since Jan. 20, run into and out of the beit of extreme cold. For instance, I left Cleveland, on the morning of the 6th inst., with the thermometer at 5° below zero, with a gradual increase of temperature as I went southward. until I reached Cincinnati, the same evening, in the midst of a thaw, and learned that the temperature had not been below 30°. So, last week I started from this place for New-Albany, Ind., leaving here with a temperature not much above zero. Between Michigan City and Lafayette the snow diminished in quantity, although the great Kankakee Swamp was still hard frozen. At Indianapolis the soil began to show through the ragged covering; twenty miles further there was only a slight peppering of snow in Sence-corners and the hollows of the woods; while all along the Ohio the earth was entirely bare, and apparently but little frost in the ground. Wednesday, in Louisville, was one of the balmiest and sweetest of winter-days. The eky was cloudless, the air moderately warm, with a few drops of some cold, bracing, tonic principle infused into it, and the life along the lavees was cheerier than I have seen it since New-

Year's day at Pittsburgh.

I left Jeffersonville (opposite Louisville) at sunrise on Thursday. The sky was still cloudless, and the sun came up, like the sun of Austerlitz, large and red, through light belts of vapor. The Ohio River was led with floating ice from shore to fhore, and berry-boat which first periled and then saved the lives individuals was at anchor in the midst of it. ill, the huge cakes which had floated down from 500 miles of the Alleghanies, began to show a sodden and "mushy" upper surface, proving that they had been touched by the sun. Below the Falls they were broken into finer fragments, and more mushy and Albany and Portland made its regular trips, and ensbled the people of Louisville to get to the Northern railroads by making a circuit of some eight miles.

Well, as I was saying, the sun was red and the morning was clear. This state of things lasted until we came upon patches of snow, near Indianapolis. Bimultaneously with these, appeared patches of clouds. As the snow increased, so did the clouds, and so did not the temperature, which went the other way. At Lafayette the earth was hidden by snow and the sky was covered with clouds, and as we whizzed past th famous battle-ground of Tippecauce (" and Tyler, "too,") the flakes began to come down, singly and in clusters, with an air which showed, like the first arrivals at a party, that we might expect a large company. I have seen many desolate landscapes, but few more desolate than the Kankakee Swamp in a snow-storm. These interminable miles of alternate snow and pools of frozen water, streaked with belts of fortern-looking trees, stretching away into gray and dreary distances, might have been the plains beyond Slave Leke and the Copper Mine River, for any sign of warmth and life which they displayed. Once, only, was there a token of civilization, and this was rather of that changes life which they displayed. of that pioneer life which heralds it. Two hunters, red coats and caps, and faces which the snow and wind had buffeted into the bue of a raw beefsteak, were dragging a large buck by the hind legs across the snowy plain. We shot past them like a flash, and into other stretches of deserted swamp. The noise of approached Michigan City—but, as the road is nearly a dead level, there was no danger of our being breught to a stand. It was nearly midnight when we reached Chicago; the streets were deserted, the snow whicled round the corners and drifted along the sidewalks, and the air was piercingly cold. The change from the outside storm to the warm and lighted saloogs of the Trement House, and the bustle of a military ball, es striking than agreeable.

I was due at Belvidere yesterday, but the train which left on Thursday "stuck" at Oak Ridge, eight miles from here, and most of the passengers returned, some on foot and some in aleighs. Notice was given at the station that no trains would leave until this morning, so I secured a warm room, bought up all the old TRIBURES I could find, and—I confess it with a hame and sorrow—lighted a cigar. But I drew patience therefrom; and which is worse—to storm, and fret, and swear, (as many do in these parts), or to sit down quietly and puff your vexations into smoke? So yesterday passed, and this morning arrived, and no trains appeared. I had engaged to be at Rockford this evening, and was informed that the road would be clear by noon. Noon came, and the bour of starting was postponed until one o'clock; at one, it was advanced to two: at two to three, and about this time several individuals arrived in a state of suffering that appeared incredible to us who were wait—foring that appeared incredible to us who were wait—for the state of the control of the North-eastern States an increase of bank note circulation, the decrease in Virginia was in terms of the North-eastern States an increase of bank note circulation, the decrease in Virginia was in the satio

ing around a flery furnace. Their faces—at least the small portion that was visible—were variegated with red, blue and purple; their heads were drawn into their shoulders, their hands ahrunk up the sleeves of their over coats, and their kness clove unto each other. They had left the eastward-bound train at the junction, thirty miles off, and taken sleighs. The mercury was down to zero, with the terrible winterwind of the prairies in full blast. They reported that there was still a bleck-up at Oak Ridge, and advised

us to sit down quietly until to-morrow. Not more than three or four inches of snow fell on Thursday night, and you may be surprised that it has proved such a serious impediment to travel. But you must remember that the old snow-banks of Jannary are still standing—that only a narrow lane for the trains has been cut through the deep drifts-and that the wind not only filled up these lanes to the level of the old drift in two or three hours, but continued to fill them up faster than they could be shoveled out. Besides, the cold is so intense that the pumps of a locomotive freeze in ten or fifteen minutes, unless they are kept in motion; and when a train once sticks, it is soon snowed under. There are no really service able snow-plows, so far as I can learn, on any of the Western roads. The present winter has found the Companies wholly unprepared, and the hindernoee to travel is therefore more serious than it is likely ever

to be in future.

I must confess, however, that the Western roads, with very few exceptions, are not so well managed as they might be. There is not that conscientious desire to run according to time, and make all promised connections, which the traveling public has a right to expect. Changes of the time-tables are not properly made known; and, if a man wishes to be perfectly sure of the trains that run, and their time of starting, be must not depend exclusively on the advertisements he sees in newspapers, or the bills suspended in hotels, but should go personally to the station, and ascertain for himself. Several disappointments of this kind have shaken my faith in railroad announcements, and I now make it a point always to take the first train that starts for the place of my destination, even though there should be a later train which promises

to get me there in time.

With regard to the comforts of this sort of travel, I am nearly ready to agree with the author of the caustic article in Harper for this month, on the same subject. I have, however, found one car which was properly ventilated; and that was a new-invented car, on the Southern Michigan road. It was heated by a furnace under the floor, and ventilated by flues on both sides. In this car the air was pure during the whole night, and the heat equally distributed. So far, so good-but the seats were small, narrow, low-backed, and distressing for a man of six feet. This is a general fault in all railroad-cars. I wish all railroad directors were seven feet high, and were obliged to ride two on a seat, whenever they traveled. We should then have an improvement. On the Ohio and Mississippi road, the cars are really worthy of a Christian country, and of a growing people.

Eight P. M .- The trains on the Galena road are at last in, and there will be a departure to-morrow morning, in order to relieve the numbers of persons of nar row means and valuable time, who have been waiting at the station for two days past. I shall send you further of my experiences in a few days. The night is savagely cold.

BANK REPORT FROM THE SECRE-TARY OF THE TREASURY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 27, 1855.

Six: I have the honor to submit a report on the condition of the banks throughout the Union, in compliance with the following resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted July 10, 1832:

"Resolved, That the Secretary of the Fressury be directed to lay before this House at the next and each successive session of Congress, copies of such statements or returns, showing the capital, chechation, discounts, specie, deposits, and condition of the different State banks and Shaing Compales, as may have been communicated to the Legislatures, Governors, or other officers of the several States within the year and made public; and where such information cannot be obtained, such other authentic information as will best supply the deficiency."

In conformity with this resolution, reports on the condition of the banks were made in 1835, and in each subsequent year up to 1840. A change of Administration then took place, and the resolution was treated as a dead letter till Air. Polk became President. The making of the reports was then regularly resum-

as a coal letter till Air. Folk became President. The making of the reports was then regularly resum-ed, and the accounts of the back years brought up. Since then the reports have been regularly made, ex-cept during part of the time of Mr. Fillmore's Admin-istration.

since then the reports have been regularly made, except during part of the time of Mr. Fillmore's Administration.

Taken in their series, these reports supply facts which are indispensable to a correct understanding of the state of the cauntry, and of the many pecuniarly embarrassments of the people.

These reports differ in one important respect from all the other annual reports made by the Department, or by any other Department of the General Government. The materials for all the other reports are supplied by efficers of the General Government, and at oates and according to forms prescribed by the heads of the Departments. For statements of the condition of the banks, the Treesury Department is entirely dependent on the countery of the officers of the State Governments and of the State Banks.

To letters from this Department, soliciting such information as will enable it to comply with the resolution of Congress, the officers of the State Government and of the State banks have, in almost every instance, replied with great courtesy, though not always with the promptitude that is desirable. If the returns were made more early, this Department would make every effort to have them arranged and published at the earliest day possible, which would greatly increase their value in the eyes of the merchant and the banker. To the political economist and the statesman the delay is not so important, as it is from the reports of various years, taken in connection, that they make their inductions.

These reports would be greatly increased in value if the banks would all make their reports at one and the same time—say the close of business hours on the last business day in each year. At present, the banks in the different states make their returns in different months, from April to December; and in some cities, as, for example, in Philadelphia, though they make their returns in different months, from April to December; and in some cities, as, for example, in Philadelphia, though they make their returns in different months, f

In the United States, owing to the issue of bank notes of small denominations, owing to the rapid development of our natural resources, and owing to other causes, the fluctuations of paper money are much more sudden, much more violent, and much more frequent than in Great Britain; yet we have no means of ascertaining exactly the range of these fluctuations, because we have no means of ascertaining the amount of circulation of all the banks on any one day in the year.

the amount of circulation of all the banks on any one day in the year.

This is a subject over which the General Govern-ment has no control, but it is to be boped that it will attract the attention of the State Legislatures. Some attract the attention of the State Legislatures. Some of them now require quarterly statements from the banks: and the banks in New-York are even required to make weekly statements of their condition. If the Legislature of each State would require its banks to make statements of their condition at the close of business hours on the last business day in the months of March, June, September and December, or, what would be still better, at the close of business hours on the last business day of each mouth, (as is now done by the Legislature of Louisiana.) the Department might by a collocation of the different reports present such views of the fluctuations of our paper currency as would be of great value to business men in every department of life.

department of life.

For obvious ressons, such uniform returns would be of vast importance to banks conducted on proper variable.

The present report includes returns from 1,307

of twenty four per cent.: in Georgia, of about thirty per cent.; and in Michigan, of about strty per cent. In addition to this, it should be taken into consider-ation that, curing part of the year, the notes of many of the banks in some of the States fell into such dis-

business.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES GUTHRIE, Secretary of the Tressery.

Hou. Less Boyd, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT. By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

John J. Gilchrist of New Hempshire, Joseph H. Lampshire, Georgia, Jeane Blackford, of Indiana to be Judges of the

of Georgia, Isaac Blackford, of Indiana to be Judges of the Court of Claims.

Monty mry Blair, of the District of Columbia to be Solicitor for the United States, to represent the Government before he can't of Claims.

Jesish Micot, of New Hampsbire, to be Fifth Auditor of the Tressury of the United States, in the piace of Stephen Pleasuitan, deceased.

Jeseph L. Haywood, of Utsh, to be Marshal of the United States for the Territory of Utsh, whose term of service has rathed.

Eti R. Doyle, of Nobrasks, to be Marshal of the United taxes for the Territory of Nebrasaa, in piace of Mark W.

Sistes for the Territory of Nebrada, in proceedings of the District Court of Semusal H. Treat, Jr., to be Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Southern District of tillinois.

W. Joshus Allen, to be District-Attorney of the United States for the Southern District of Ullinois Archimides C. Dickson to be Marshal of the United States for the Southern District of Ullinois. Norman Eddy, to be Attorney of the United States for the Territory of Minnesota, in the place of John E. Warren, re-

red D. Andrews, of Maine, to be Consul General to reside Irrel D. Andrews, of Maine, to be Commissioner 1: I read in the British North American province, to be Consul General Oreside at Simoda, in Japan.

Nathaniel Bolton, of Indama, to be Consul of the United Interest General Oreside at Simoda, in Japan.

Nathaniel Bolton, of Indama, to be Consul of the United Interest General Oreside at Simon Mainer 1: I will be a supported by the United St. D. Mulloway of Trans. to be Consul of the United St. D. Mulloway of Trans. to be Consul of the United States at Montery, in Mexico, in the place of Wim. B. Glover,

ed. Arrott, of Pennsylvania, to be Consul of the United for the part of Dublin, in Ireland, in the piace of Rob't v Colvin of Florida, to be Consul of the United States be port of Demarara, in British Gulana, in the place of C.

W Derkon, resigned.

Henry W. Le Puy, of New York to be Countled the United
Interest Capterne in the Duchy of Baden, in Germany
N. A. Haven, of New York to be Countled the United States
of States in the Cate Verde Islands, in the place of John Z.

N. A. Haven, of New York to be Censul of the United States for St. Jago in the Cap Veride Islands, in the place of John Z. Forney, recigned, G. G. Cashman, of Maire, to be Commissioner under the Reciprocity greaty between the United States and her Britannic Majerty, concluded Sh June. 1834.

Bobert Onld and William B. B. Cross both of the District of Columbia, to revies and coeffy the laws of said slattict.

Wm R. Woodward, Daniel Smith, John S. Hollingsted, Charles P. Warrall, Zacarsh waker. Sommel Drary, Henry Haw, to be Justices of the Peace for the County of Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Jesse Thomas, to be Surveyor and Inspector for port of Nashville, Tennessee.

John C. O. Grady, to be Surveyor and Inspector port of Jacksonville. Morth Caroline.

Edward H. Ward, to be Surveyor and Inspector for port of Seiners Wille, Indiana.

Jehn E. Johnson, to be Surveyor and Inspector for port of Effersewithe, Indiana.

Jehn E. Johnson, to be Surveyor and Inspector for the port of Baspoor, Fierida.

James H. Durt, to be Collector of Customs for district of Brance & Santiago, vice Stephen Powers, removed, Isaac Williams, to be Collector of Customs for port of San Pedro California.

Charles W. Den, of Arkaness, to be Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the southern superintendency, vice Thomas S. Drew, removed.

Maxwell McCaslin of Pennsylvania, for Osage River Agen ly Moore. n F. Robinson, of Kansas Territory, for Delaware

Benjamin F. Robinson, of Lindana John Montgomery of Kansas Territory, for Kansas tribe of Indiana John W. Whitfield, of Kansas Territory, for Upper Kansas John W. Malters, of Minnesota Territory, for the Black-ect and other neighborine tribes.

Robert Campbell, of Ohlo, for the Kickapoo Indians.
Robert C Miller, of Kansas Territory, for the Shawnes and Washoott Indians.

Thomas S. Swiss, of Illinois, for the Upper Platte Agency, rice John W. Whitfield.

vice John W Whitfield
Jones R. Vineyard, of Sacramento City, for California.
Henry M. Rector, of Arkarsas, to be Surveyor General for
the District of Arkarsas, vice George Melbourne, removed.
Davis H. Burr of the District of Columbia, to be SurveyorGeneral for the Territory of Utah.

General for the Territory of Utah.

AEGISTERS OF LAND OFFICES.

Harvey Morgan, of Illinois, at Dixon, Illinois, vice Wallace, esigned. John A. Parker, of Virginia, in Nebraska Territory George Hyen, of Mississippi, at Fon-du-Lac District, Wis-

onein
Jesse Carter, of Florida, at Tampa, Florida
Jesse Carter, of Florida, at Tampa, Florida
James D Jenkius, of Iowa, at Tarkey River District, Iowa
William H. Merritt, of Iowa, at Fort Dodge District, Iowa
S. F. Yesman of Iowa at Sioux River District, Iowa
R. J. Hamilton, of Illinois, at Chicago, Illinois, vice Long,

L's Moore, of Kaness Territory, in that Territory La Fayette Mosher, of Oregon, at Winchester, Oregon Ter-

Thomas C. Sheen sker, of Kanasa Territory, for the District of Lands subject to sale in that Territory. Action R. Gilmore, of Nibras ka Territory. Action R. Gilmore, of Nibras ka Territory. Simeon Mills, of Wisconsin, for Fondo-Lac District, Wis. Madion Post, of Founda, for Tampa, Fiorica. Artel K Eaton, of Iowa, for Turkey River Land District, Iowa.

Wa. V. V. Antwerp, of lows, for Fort Dodge Land District,

Wa John B. Lash, of Iows, for Sloux River Land District Iowa, George W. Lawson, of Oregon Territory, at Winchester, Jub B. Last, of low, for cases Territory, at Winchester, Greege W. Lawson, of Oregon Territory.

Caders appointed by the president at Large ros 1855. Alexander J. Melntoch, of Georgia son of Capt. Mennosh, of the Navy.

Wm. W. McCreery, of Virginia. Father lost in the Grampus and his uncles in the Albany.

John Rickashi, of New York. Vather died in the service.

Wm. H. Marriott, of Maryland. Family distinguished in the mittary greyce of the country.

Dudity Riley, son of the late Geo. Riley.

Pletre M. Butler, son of the late Geo. Butler, who fell at Charabaco.

Choundro-co.

Frank Buger, son of Col. Huger, United States Army.

Charles S. Bowman, son of Capt. Bowman,

Bobert, W. Mitchell, of Pennsylvania.

James P. Bartin, of Kentucky.

THE STATE PRISONS.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed to invertigate the pecuniary affairs of the several State Prisons, is just printed. They come to the following

Prisons, is just printed. They come to the following conclusions:

In concluding our Report, we come to the consideration of what laws we deem proper for the better "regulation and discipline of said prisons."

We recommend that the law be so amended that each Inspector shall have the charge of each of the three prisons for three successive months in every pine months of his term of office; and that in alternating from one prison to another each of the said Inspectors shall be assigned to the charge of the prisons from which they have been the long-st absent; and that each Inspector shall devote at least two weeks in each of the said three months to a personal attendance at and direction of the affairs of the prisons of which they shall so be in special charge.

at, and direction of the affairs of the prisons of which they shall so be in special charges.

Upon the Agents and Wardens, we think, under the existing law, there are no sufficient checks and safeguarde against mismansgement and fraud. We recommend that the monthly estimates for funds, now required by law to be made to the Controller, shall receive the indorsement of the Inspector in charge, to the effect that he has carefully examined its contents, and that the fands therein required are necessary for the wants of the prison.

We also recommend that the said estimate shall be accompanied by a report then hereinafter referred to, of all supplies, on hand, stating the quantity of each stitcle.

ticle. There is no responsibility in the distribution and There is no responsibility in the distribution and application of supplies purchased for the Prison. They are taken by keepers and others especially at Sing Sing, and consumed or applied without any account being rendered, except that the keeper in charge of the kitchen and mess recomenters upon a small book the daily amount of provisions received by him for current consumption, after which, the amount is transferred to a larger book, and the price stated.

current consumption, after which, the amount is transferred to a larger book, and the price stated.

To insure a strict accountability, we recommend that there shall be an officer at each prison, designated as "store keeper," who shall receive and issue all articles of supplies, of every name and nature, purchases by the agent. That all bills of purchases shall be taken in duplicate one of which shall accompany the delivery of the articles to the store-keeper, and no bill of purchases shall pass to the crent of the agent, at the Controller's office, as a vancher which shall not have been receipted by the said store-keeper at the time of the delivery of the supplies, which said bill or voncher shall embrace. That the said store-keeper shall render a monthly return, to the Inspector in charge, of all supplies which he shall bave on hand at the end of the previous month, and of all which he shall have received and issued during the month then brought to a close. The said store-keeper, when he receives provisions or other supplies, and indugitient to agree in quantity and quality with the accompanying bill, shall compare said bill with the duplicate thereof in the hands of the agent, and, if the said bills agree, he shall receipt the goods therein named on the agent's bill, as having been delivered to bit a.

them to agree in quantity and quality with the accompanying bill, shall compare said bill with the duplicare theteof in the hancs of the agent, and, if the said bill agree he shall receipt the goods therein named on the agent's bill, as having been delivered to bio. The said store are per shall keep a book of cufficient age to allow the entry of all said articles, in separate columns, in which he shall enter all the articles embraced in the bills of purchase, according to their respective dates, and at the end of the month shall formup at the bottom, the totals thereof. He shall enter, upon the opposits page of said book, in the order of their date, all provisions and other articles issued by him upon requisitions, add up the same, and carry the total thereof to the opposite page, and, under the agreegate of purchases, deduct the former from the latter, and carry the amount remaining to the next montally return, as "goods on hand." From this amount of receipts and issues upon the book, the montally return above required to be made and delivered to the laspecter in charge, shall be taken, supported by the hills of purchases and the requisitions for their issue. The above account upon the book, and the return thereform, to be examined at the end of each month by the Inspector in charge the bills and requisitions emparad therewith, and, if found correct, both book and return to be so certified by the said Inspector.

We recommend that a keeper shall be assigned, permanently, to the charge of the diothing department; another to the charge of the missing and repairing, and building and repairing materials, fuci, and forage; another to the charge of the missing and repairing, and building and repairing to the permit of the hearist of the shill are gard to its general police and cleanliness and of the office of the permit and the heaping of the building and repairing, and building and repairing to the same. That slife the articles required for use, consumption or expenditure, be drawn by said beepers and matron, from return shall be verified to be correct and true by the oath of the respective keepers and the said matron. The age unt of supplies returned as "on hand" by the said several keepers and the matron, together with those reported as "on hand" by the storekeeper, shall be carolidated into a return, which shall be verified by the oath of the said Inspector in charge, and shall accompany the estimate for funds, to be forwarded to the Centroller.

We recommend that all contracts for the bire of convicts shall be subject to the approval of the Con-

We recommend that all contracts for the bire of convicts shall be subject to the approval of the Controller and the Automey-General, before they shall take effect, and, as the question has always been a vexed one between the contractors and the agent as to what constitutes an ordinary day's work, we recommend that in all contracts for the bire of convicts, no conditions shall be inserted by which any deductions shall be made from any convicts is sor; that contractors shall pay the contract price for each man working on the contract; that no contract shall be executed without recurity is given by the contractor. We also recommend that the law requiring each

We also recommend that the law requiring each we also recommend that the law requiring each shop-keeper to return a written statement of the work done in the shop to which he is assigned, shall also require such return or statement to be verified by his

done in the shop to which he is assigned, shall also require such return or statement to be verified by his cath; also, that every return required and to be used by any officer to the agent or Inspector in charge, shall be verified by the eath of the party making it, and that it be made a misdemeanor for any prison officer to receive any gift or gratuity, while in office, from any contractor, or from any person in the employment of any contractor.

We recommend that the Inspector in charge, together with the agent, the physician, and principal keeper, shall make a thorough and critical inspection of all the property belonging to the prison, annually, and take an inventory of the same; and all articles that shall be found to be of no further use to the prison, from injury, decay, or otherwise, shall be publicly advertised and sold at auction. That such articles as shall be found at the first examination by said Board to be useful for the continued wants of the prison, shall be receipted by the store keeper, and by him turned over, upon requisition, to the respective keepers, or the matron, having charge of the several departments of the prison, to which such articles may belong and by them receipted to the said store-keeper. These articles they shall continue to report in their montily returns to the Inspector in charge, and be responsible for their custody and preservation. Should any articles thus receipted become worn out, destroyed or lost, they shall satisfactorily account for the same to the said Inspector, under oath. We recommend that all articles hereafter manufactured at the prison, for prison use, shall befurned over to the tore-keeper, and by him issued upon requisitions, as hereinbefore recommended.

We also recommended.

bereinbefore recommended.

We also recommend that no furniture, except such as shall be required for the prison offices, or necessary for the daily transactions of the business of the prisons shall hereafter be our chased or manufactured for the use of any officers or other persons employed in any of the prisons.

We recommend that instead of the annual account and invertory now acquired of the agent to be sent to the Controller on or before the first day of January, there shall be an annual return made by the Inspector in charge to the Controller on or before the 10th day of January, of all property purch seed, manufactured, or otherwise received by the storeke-pers, including the amount "on hand," brought to said return from the previous year, from the aggregate of including the amount "on hand," brought to said return from the previous year, from the aggregate of
which shall be deducted all property or supplies consumed, expended, worn eat, lest or sold during the
said year, the amount remaining "on hand" to be
carried into the return of the year following. This
return will be made up from the monthly returns
made to the Inspector, as hereinbefore provided, and
will exhibit a summary of all receipts and expenditures of property for the year, as well as the amount
"on hand" at the end thereof.

We recommend that the law providing for an annual appraisal of the property belonging to the several prisons be abolished.

We recommend that all boxes, casks, hones, gresse,
sell, and other refuse from the kitchen or prisons
shall be sold by the store-beeper, under the direction
of the Inspector, and the avails turned over to the
agent.

of the impector,

servit.

We recommend that no property belonging to the prisons, other than the above, shall be sold, except at auction, and after being publicly advertised;

and not in such case until the same shall have been concerned, as no longer useful to the prison, or unsound in quality, and so pronounced upon by a Board of Survey under oath, which shall be ordered by the Inspecter, and composed of the physician, principal

of Survey under oath, which shall be ordered by the Inspector, and composed of the physician, principal keeper and clerk.

Should the Legislature approve and adopt the recommendations we have made, it is proper that the officers upon whom such large additional duties and responsibilities are imposed should receive an adsquate compensation; we, therefore, recommend that the store-keeper receive a salary of \$500 per annum.

The place of kitchen keeper is an important one, as it ever has been the great place of wasteage in the prison. Much experience and judgment is required in that department; and where a thousand persons are fed three times a day, the care and labor devolving upon the person who superintends the cooking and distribution of their rations can be imagined. We, therefore, recommend that the kitchen-keeper receive \$200 per annum.

The marron of the femsle prison has the entire charge of its management and discipline, and is required to perform the same duties which devolve upon the keepers of the male prisons. She is required to reside at the prison, and is responsible for its safe keeping day and night. We think her present salary too small for the services she is called upon to perform, or to afford berself and family a proper support. We, therefore, recommend that she be allowed \$800 a year, and that she enter into bonds in the sum of \$5,000 for the faithful performance of her daty, and the safe keeping and return of the property intrusted to her care.

The duties of the clerks of Sing Sing and Auburn

o her care.

The duties of the clerks of Sing Sing and Auburn The duties of the clerk of Sing Sing and Account prisons are much greater than those of the clerk of Clinton prisor. We recommend that the two former be allowed \$1 000 esch per annum. We recommend that the keepers in the clothes-room, the hospital, and the building and repairs department, be each allowed \$600 per annum, and that they be required to give bonds, with the usual conditions, in the sum of \$2,000

bonds, with the usual conditions. In the sum of \$2,000 each.

We recommend that the store-keeper be required to enter into bonds in the sum of \$3,000, and the kitchen-keeper in the sum of \$2,500, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duty, and the safe keeping and return of the property intrusted to them. We recommend that the principal keeper, or, in his absence, the clerk of the prison, shall keep a time-book in which shall be entered the names of all the officers, keepers and guards of the prison to which he is attached, and opposite to which names be shall indicate only the absence or presence at the prison of such officers, keepers and guards, and if any are absent shall give the reason therefor, at the end of each month, the total number of days of each officer, keepers and guard, shall be added up, a statem at caste of month, the total number of days of even enter, keep-er and guard, shall be added up, a statem at dasde of the same, the truth of which shall be verified by the oath of the principal keeper, and banded to the agent, who shall forward the same to the Controller with his

monthly report.

All of which is respectfully submitted
JOHN BRADL\*Y, Chair,
LEWIS BENEGICT, Ja.

EEEN, BLAKELY, Clerk. ASRAM VERNAM.

## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

CHEAP ICE FOR THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribuns.

Sin: The subject of cheap ice may not, at this season of the year, commend itself to the general public with that appreciative force which a few months later in the year would be the inevitable result of circum siances. But, although it is true that we have, in the past winter, had a pretty severe surfeit of ice, yet the processities of the dog days demand that due provision

necessities of the dog days demand that due provision shall be made for their alleviation.

Lee, in July, is as necessary to the comfort of the pottest as to the most wealthy in the community, and therefore, should be placed within the reach of all classes; but like all other commodities in general use, this frigit comfort and luxers is subject to great ductions in price, and these fluctuations are not as much the result of the acarcity or planteousness of the supply as of the machinations of capitalists, who man pootes the sale of the article, by controlling the sources of that supply. With such power it is not unnatural that they should and do, demand for ice, whenever the opportunity presents itself, a price altogether beyond the limits of a just profit upon the cost of obtaining and preserving this article.

The importance of obtaining cheap ice may best be shown by a brief exhibit of the extent of the trade in this City. Last year the dealers stored up somewhere

The importance of obtaining cheap ice may best be shown by a brief exhibit of the extent of the trade in this City. Last year the dea era stored to a consenhere about 250,000 tuns of ice, a quantity more than enough to supply all the wants of New-York, in this respect; and the dealers congravulated themselves upon having secured a rich barvest from the public purse, when all their as home were suddenly defeated by an able expo e of the aggregate quantity housed for the market, and the modes resorted to by the large dealers to obtain a monopoly of that market. The consequence was that for one reason the people of New-York enjayed the luxury of really cheap ice; for during the summer it was sood to a nall consumers for is cents a cast, and some, we believe, gave no more than 15 cents a cut. The aggregate quantity cat and housed for the New York market next summer is no less than 100 toot tuns, or 20 per cent more than 1 set year, and the legiturate result should be that the people of New-York should be charged no more for its this year then they paid in a season when the supply was so much less. We say this would be the reasonable conclusion to which common sense folk would come; but the men who have held the reins of this business have decided otherwise. A few days ago, in anordance with their annual custom, three of the leading dealers met in secret conclave, and then and there resolved that the retail price of ice, during the next number, shall be 30 cents a cwt to purchasers of such quantities and of coarse to families, who will need only a few pounds a day, the rate will be much more acvanced. And to carry into effect their resolution, all small dealers in ice, who are dependent upon them for their supply, are compelled to pledge themselves to sell at that price, and no less, at the risk of having their supply, are compelled to pledge themselves to sell at that price, and no less, at the risk of having their supply, are compelled to pledge themselves to sell at that price, and no less, at the risk of having

lce, in 1854, sold for 18 cents a cwt. in this City, when the crop did not exceed 250,000 tuns; now, with a crop 29 per cent. larger, they have resolved to raise two-thirds upon the price of last year. Can any monopoly be more disgraceful to the men engaged in it, or more odious to those who must be the victims of its arbitrary restrictions and exactions? Surely this despotic con duct deserves the severest reprehension from those who consume large quantities of this commedity, and also from the public at large, whose interests are thus glaringly outraged. And unloss some substantial check be given to their respectly, the monopoly will continue to draw tighter the screws of oppression, and finally their ill-gotten gains will render them impregnable to any assault that may be made upon their interests. We do not doubt but this year they will compel those who purchase for domestic use to pay them at the rate of 50 cents a cwt for all that they consume, and this will be but the beginning of the end. We know of a case where a gentleman purchased a large quantity of ice last year, to be delivered this season, at \$2 a tun, who was informed by the monopoly, that unless he came into the agreement to sell his ice for 30 cents a cwt—monopoly price—he should not have it at all. He defied them to recede from their contract, when they replied that if he got the ice, and attempted to sell for less, they would break up his business by supplying his customers at a rate below his ability, and so work his ruin. These sie facts that can be vouched for; facts so notorious that they are presented here only to keep them fresh before the public.

The ice business is a lucrative one; 25 cents a cwt. will yield the seller nearly 50 per cent. of profit, and if with 250,000 tuns in store the dealers could, last

will yield the seller nearly 50 per cent. of profit, and if with 200,000 tuns in store the dealers could, last year sell toe for 18 cents a cet, and even for 15 cents, what shedow of a preject can they have for de nanding of the public this year, with an increased supply of 20 per cent, an advance of two-thirds on the price of

per cent., an advance of two-thirds on the price of lest yesr.

The truth is the monopolists, thinking themselves secure in their monopoly, do not know where to stop; at every grasp their greediness increases, until, like the old woman and her goose, they are no longer content with the golden egg, but, in seeking undes gain, must kill themselves and the business altogether. The orly way for the people of New-York to escape from there extortions is to take the matter into their own heads, and furnish themselves with this lodispensable becessary at a fair rate of advance upon the cost of production. This they will shortly be enabled to do by the New-York Legislature, who have now under consideration and will no doubt shortly grant a Charter to the New-York and Brooklyn Ice Company. In Company is to issue stock to the amount of \$250,000, with the privilege of it creasing the same to \$300,000. The shares are to be at \$10 each, thus enabling each ice

The medus operandi of these speculators and monopolists are thus uncarriedly set forth by a writer in The New York Tritars instyer, and will be do out as miliarts ion now:

A commission is then held between certain leading tealers and a compromise is made. Bandl cashes are accounted into selling out cheap. Then statements are farmished to the public jou nais, and the dealers chuckle over the deat thus unwittingly thrown into the public eye. The usual announcement of 'large crops' having been promulgated, small dealers think it is of no me for them to secure any more, as the abundance of the crop has already made fee a drug to the market. This goes in matil April, when lee either 'wastee fast,' or 'the 'crop was not mer so large as expected,' and doe goes up. Some cut reprising journalist sets hold of a 'distinguistic sets,' or the 'crop was not mer so large as the hold of a 'distinguistic sets,' or the 'crop was not mer so large as a deviced on ship loe for this masket for a sure sale, at large prices.' This serves a double purpose: the Baine mechanic cancer pack lee for this market at seminarradire prices: so the home dealers have onthing to fear on that score, while the public are guided into the belief that ice reading is scarce, and 'pay for it handsomely without gumbling.'

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PROPLE.

consumer to be a stockholder, and to have a voice is the election of the officers of the Company, to vote upon the rate at which ice shall be sold, and to share in the profits of the concern.

The result will be that the consumers of ice will no longer be subjected to the impositions of monopolists and speculators, but they will also be enabled to establish a healthy competition in the business, and thereby benefit all classes of the community.

It is not to be supposed that this movement seemed the hostility of the monopolists at whose overthrow it was aimed; on the contrary, no sooner were they aware of the movement on foot than an effort was made to gather together a meeting of ice dealers to oppose and defeat the attempt. This failed must ingloriously. The monopolists then clubbed together a large sum of money, and through their Albany agents endeavored to effect, by means of bribary, what they had failed to do by the other method. The attempt was also signally defeated, by the bill passing the House by the very significant vote of 83 to 11. The bill is now before the Senate, and will no doubt be passed by a large mejority.

The monopolists have not only endeavored to work.

The bill is now before the Senate, and will no doubt be passed by a large majority.

The monopolists have not only endeavored to work on the Legislature by their gold, but at the same time the venal services of that black-mail sheet, The New-York Herald were also secured in their behalf, and on Monday last an article appeared in that paper, that beyond doing no discredit to the notorious character of the man who stands at its head, and fulminating a few stout falsehoods in relation to the People's Ico Company, did no harm whatever, and therefore needs no reply.

Company, did no harm whatever, and therefore needs no reply.

The establishment of this Company will do much good in promoting a healthy competition in the ice market, by breaking down the odious monopoly that has so long governed the business, and by rendering it impossible that the supply shallever again fall short of the popular demand. As soon as the charter shall have been granted, this Company will proceed at once to the erection of suitable buildings, and by the next season, the supply of ice for this market will no doubt be double that of any former year and the price of this indispensable comfort and luxury will, no doubt, be within the means of the meanest.

## "YORKVILLE ITEMS."

ty and existence may be considered as swallowed up

under the head of "City Items." But if we are

To the Editor of The N. Y. Trabune. SIR: Although THE TRIBUNE comes up here every morning before breakfast, your reporters (we think) don't often favor us with a call. Perhaps our identi-

New-York City, as much as the region of the Battary is, yet are we often, by your neglect, made to feel that we are considered as only the suburbs, or outis, ye' are we often, by your negree, man to rest that we are considered as only the suburbs, for outsquirts, as Mrs. Partington would say) But we have no idea of being thus treated. If you have "Williamsburgh Items," when everybody knows that that place is only a part of Brooklyn, why can't you give us "Yorkville Items," although Yorkville is a part of New-Ford? Shail I dub myself your reporter for the nonce and supply the short co mings of your regular corpe? Yorkville is generally considered as being included within ten streets north and south of Eighty-sixth st., and between Fifth av. and East River. Within these limits we have the dwellings of millionsers and the cabins of day laborers—John J. Aster's former residence being near Eighty-sixth-st, on East River, while many an Irish squatter has reased in this vicinity his lowly hovel. But our population is mostly made up from the middle class, if there be any cleases in democratic America. We have a large sprinkling of builders, matter-msons, carpenters, &c.; we have merchants and bokers, who do business "down town:" printers, book keepers, clerks, journey men of every trade, whose daily work is performed "down-town," have their abodes here. We have good markets, proceries, and dry-goods stores among ourselves. We have several manufactories; one large cabinet manufactory, which employs a numerous body of German in making carved rosewood furniture, two excensive carriage manufactories, two or three founderies, one machine shop, &c. We are as near the City Hall, by the Fourth-av. as those who dwell between Ibirty first and Forty-second sit. By the Second and Third-av. Railroads the only advantage others believe the first printers and improvement are so marked as in this vicinity. Look at the public works perfected or going on in our vicinity. Seventy-eighth st., between Firth av. and East River, Eighty-sixth-st. grading and flagging. Eighty-second-set, between Second and Third-av. Eighty-second benefits and larged; Eighty-second benefits wichnity in the five a squirts, as Mrs. Partington would say ) But we have no idea of being thus treated. If you have

one Reparagrations, one Presbyterian, one Congregations, one Reman Catholic. The Baptist Church, which was organized last summer, has secured a location, and intends to erect, this summer, either a church edifice or a lecture-room. The Presbyterians intend to erect a new and larger edifice than their present one, on Eighty-sixth st., between Third and Fourth-ava. We consider it as healthy here as any part of the laband. Yorkville is almost entirely built on a rise of ground which begins at Seventy ninth at, and extends beyond One Hundredth-st. On this eminence we are above Harlem, and above that portion which is bounded north by Seventy-ninth-st. The Central-park will be very near us. Jones Woods are justicely with the second-st. and Fourth-av., there is a splendid view. Of course, you know that we are have Croton water, but you don't know that we are pest soon to have Third-av. and our streets lighted with gas.

Now don't think, dear Tribune, that because I write thus I am some rapacious landlord, or owner of real estate in X; for I am mather.

write thus I am some rapacious landlord, or owner of real estate in Y.; for I am neither. I am only a post tenant at with. However, I think Yorkville is a very pleasant part of the City to live in.
Yours, truly, AN AMATEUR REPORTER

MARINE AFFAIRS.

LOSS OF THE BARK NANCY TREAT .- The schools Sarah Maria, Capt. Jones, arrived yesterday morning from Havana, reports: February 1, on the outward passage, lat. 29° 11', long 74° 40', fell in with the bark Nancy Treat, of Frankfort, water logged and abandoned. She had nearly all sails set. Some were blown away and split, and the rudder gone. Fell is with her in the morning, but, the sea being so rough, could not board her until 2 P. M., when succeeded in getting on board, after getting two me burt, and Capt Jones overboard. Found her long beat on deck, the smaller ones gone, and the cabit stripped of all valuables. These was a quantity of new salls, rigging, and stores on board, but could set get any on account of the rough sea.

HON. ZADOCK PRATT ON THE HOUSE.-The Hon. Zadock Pratt delivered a lecture on Than day evening, at the Mechanics' Institute, a large and attentive audience. His subject of "That noble animal, the Horse." He described "That noble animal, the Horse." He described a mundens variety of horses, not forgetting to mestice houtly-horses; described them hatorically and ge-graphically, in health and in disease, for the plow, for the road, and flor the turf, and in every conceivable way. He gracefully closed his highly interesting de-scription with the rare and classic story of Alexand-and Bucephalus. His remarks were frequestly plauded. When he had concluded Mr. Pike, to fornier of the Institute, made a few remarks on in-origin. origin.

A countryman attended one of the President's levees, at which the ladies appeared in full ball entume, that is to say, with dresses cut very low is the neck, and leaving not so much to the imagination as poetry would require, as to the charms half conceals and half disclosed. When the unsophistic too discuss was about to take his leave, the President said him (speaking of the levee, of course) if he had ever seen such a sight before. "No," said he, emphasically, "not since I was scaned to the sight half to the sight half to the said he, emphasically, "not since I was scaned to the sight half to the said he, emphasically, "not since I was scaned to the said he, emphasically, "not since I was scaned to the said he, emphasically, "not since I was scaned to the said he, emphasically, "and said he, emphasically the said he said he